

work such as it formerly took months to accomplish. Schools and churches have multiplied on every hand until now the college and university are almost as numerous as were of old the common schools.

But does this mean advancement along every line of human progress? Has our moral status kept place with our industrial and intellectual growth, and are we in every respect superior to those who lived a century before us? Do our communities stand as high morally at the close of this nineteenth century as they did at its dawn? What did they know in those far away days of the divorce court with which we of today are so familiar, and which is such a shame and reproach to Christian America?

There is moral laxity somewhere when we find divorce a thing of everyday occurrence. Marriage is a sacred and God-ordained institution, and the divine enunciation in regard to it is: "and they shall be no more twain, but one flesh. What God hath joined together, let no man put assunder." But in this advanced age that declaration is disregarded by thousands, and the marriage relationship is often entered into lightly, with far less consideration than would be given to an important business transaction, the feeling being that if the relation does not prove satisfactory the bonds can be easily sundered.

"Till death do us part"—That solemn pledge made before high heaven has no weight, no sacredness to many. And this is one of the awful crimes of this generation, a crime against high heaven; against all that is sacred in human relations; against moral purity and the sanctity of the home. Break away from the binding sense of the marriage covenant and you strike a blow at the very foundations of society, at the best and the highest element that is to be found in our social polity, and lay the ax at the very roots of social order and purity.

The laxity of our divorce laws and the rapid increase in the number of divorces is a sad commentary upon our modern civilization, and savors altogether too much of disregard of all virtuous obligation and a defiance of those God-established principles which from time to time immemorial have been recognized by justice and right as binding upon the race.

Marriage is not sanctioned as a mere freak of fancy. It is as binding as the obligations of a parent to his child, or of those of a man to his Maker, and that the obligations of the marriage relation are so lightly regarded, and the tie so easily severed, is one of the darkest blots upon our modern civilization. The declaration of sacred writ is just as true, just as forceful now, as it was when it fell from the lips of Jesus: "But I say unto you, that whosoever shall put away his wife *saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery, and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced, commiteth adultery.*"

Here is where God stands in this matter of divorce, and according to His divine standard is not adultery the crying sin of

this generation, and how many in this great, broad, so-called Christian land of ours are living in this adulterous state, inviting the divine wrath upon this people?

This is not a question to be idly ignored, but it should receive the careful and serious consideration which it deserves, and our divorce laws should be so regulated that this prevalent evil of the century should be made impossible of repetition without receiving from the law its merited punishment. In no other way can the sanctity of the home be maintained or the purity of society be established.

## Sisters' Society C. E.

Marsh Creek S. S. C. E.

The ladies of Marsh Creek met at Mrs. Powell's, Tuesday, Feb. 15, to organize a Sister's Society of Christian Endeavor of the Brethren church. Sixteen ladies being present, ten joined. Dues paid in, one dollar. The officers are: President, Mrs. Powell; vice president, Mrs. Ackerman; secretary, Miss Pearl L. Powell; treasurer, Miss M. E. Barfield. We also intend having a sewing society in connection with the S. S. C. E. After organization we sang, "Sunshine in My Soul," the president reading John 15, and leading in prayer. Next meeting will be held at Mrs. Welch's one of our members, March 2.

PEARL L. POWELL, Sec.

Brentwood, Cal.

Allentown, Pa.

To the S. S. C. E.:—From the Allentown congregation, February 19, we report our first attempt in organizing under the Sisters' Society of Christian Endeavor. Here the sisters have been doing good work thro the Ladies' Aid Society, and being of a missionary spirit they were at once ready to enlarge their work by becoming a part of the S. S. C. E. They now have a Sisters' Society with thirty members, exceeding the church membership by one. If this work will prosper as their Sunday school has, it will be one of the strong posts of the S. S. C. E. Nine months ago they organized a Sunday-school, and last Sunday, in spite of the slushy streets, their attendance reached the number of one hundred and seven.

Before coming to Allentown we met with the Sisters Society of the Philadelphia church. A good program was prepared and many encouraging words were given, as well as an encouraging offering.

From Allentown we'll go to brother E. H. Smith's congregation, New Jersey, after which we expect to be ready to go in a western direction. Any Society that specially desires me to come, or any church where they have no S. S. C. E. yet, please write me, sending the letter to Ridgely, Md., and I'll come if possible. Dear sisters, let us be "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." Hoping that the work everywhere may prosper, I am yours in Him,

VIANNA DETWILER.

## Our Young People

### Working Together

C. F. YODER

Two brooklets once murmured along  
Each singing a lullaby song  
To no one indited.

Their courses united and then  
They carried the traffic of men  
And started industrious mills  
And gladdened both valleys and hills,  
By being united.

Two clouds were once floating on high  
In separate parts of the sky,  
Beauty possessing.

They met and united in one,  
Then crowned by the light of the sun  
They poured the beneficent showers  
Which nourish the fields and the flowers,  
Blessed and blessing.

Two lives were flowing apart,  
Each bearing a dutiful heart,  
Both out in the weather.  
God brought them together in love,  
And set a bright halo above  
Revealing the multiple power  
And blessing and joy from that hour  
In working together.

### FELLOWSHIP IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Neh. 4 : 6, 16-23.

Topic for March 12.

It was thought by the monks of the middle ages, and it is thought today by devotees of Buddhism, Hindooism and other oriental religions, that he is most religious who most sedulously withdraws himself from contact with the world and lives a hermit life. Christianity gives us no such conception of religious duty. "I pray not" said Christ in praying for the disciples, "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil which is in the world." Life would be meaningless and empty if lived apart from the world of people. It is by contact with people that many learn the path which leads to destruction but it is also by contact with people that the weak learn to withstand temptation, to gather strength and to build up character.

However, action is followed by reaction. If we gaze steadily at some object for a few moments it will fade from sight. A person engaged alone in some arduous task will have times of reaction and discouragement. These are the times for "a word in season." These are times when it is specially blessed to have co-workers because it is not likely that all will have their moments of reaction at the same time.

If alone at such times we must lean hard upon the everlasting arms and cultivate the fellowship of Him who is with us "all the days."

The fellowship we enjoy in service makes life blessed. It is fellowship which makes home dear to us, which makes services sweet to us and which will make heaven the acme of happiness. We look forward to the unbroken associations there, but here we are in training to enjoy them and unless we learn to love one another, to bear with one another, to forgive and to help one another eternal fellowship could not but be eternal discord and misery.

Our common Father makes us brethren; our common work binds us together; our common hope inspires us to press onward to victory. May we learn the lessons of fellowship and of service that there may be a place prepared for us and that we may be able to appreciate it when once we enter the eternal kingdom of the Father.

### SCRIPTURE LIGHT

1. Comradeship encouraged, Gen. 2 : 18; Luke 10 : 1.
2. Christians are as members of one body, II Cor. 12 : 23-27.
3. Encourage one another, Isa. 41 : 7.
4. Care for one another, Phil. 2 : 4.
5. Exhort one another, Heb. 3 : 13.